FREE GRATIS

TRI-LINGUAL

IRONBOUND VOICES

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Ironbound Residents Unite To Protect Their Health & Property



Ironbound residents marched up Ferry St. June 25 to demand the freedom to live healthy lives, breathe clean air, and make sure that our children can grow up free from illness caused by toxic chemicals.

"We've had enough toxic waste problems," said one member of the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes.** "We want the true story from the state about the dioxin. We want health tests for residents. We want it cleaned up and we want them to keep any more toxic wastes out of here."

Priests and ministers, young and old, Black, White, Hispanic and Portuguese Ironbound residents all joined in the march and rally.

IRONBOUND vs. DIOXIN

The discovery of dioxin in Ironbound means that residents have another battle to fight against the dangers of toxic chemicals in our neighborhood. Through past experience at other locations in Ironbound, residents have learned that they cannot leave it up to federal, state or city officials to protect our health or to clean up the toxic chemicals.

Because of this, in the last few weeks, people from all parts of Ironbound have taken immediate steps to do what has to be done to protect ourselves and our children from the effects of dioxin. An **Ironbound Health Advisory Commission** has been formed. 15 scientists and doctors who are experts in their fields have agreed to be part of the Commission, and to volunteer their time to help advise residents. Six lawyers who are experienced with cases involving damages from toxic pollution will be on the Commission. About 40 community residents - Black, White, Hispanic and Portuguese - have volunteered to be on the Commission. Lois Gibbs, who was President of the Love Canal Homeowners Association and Dr. Barry Commoner, who is a nationally known environmental scientist, have agreed to work with the group.

Hundreds of community residents have attended meetings about the dioxin problem in the last few weeks. Demands for health testing, more testing for toxic chemicals in the whole area, community involvement in the decisions about this situation, and other measures were developed by the residents of FDR Homes and supported by the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste and many other people in the community. With the Health Advisory Commission, residents will not have to rely only on state and local officials, but will have independent experts to help push for our demands, and protect our health and legal rights.

Dioxin Discovery

On June 2, 1983, the state government announced that huge amounts of dioxin had been found in Ironbound on Lister Ave. The property had once been owned by the Diamond Shamrock company, which had produced the deadly chemical dioxin as a by-product from making Agent Orange. (Agent Orange was a herbicide used in Viet Nam).

From 1966 to 1968, Diamond Shamrock had a contract with the Department of Defense to produce Agent Orange. The



state government is claiming that this was the cause of all the dioxin contamination in the area. Some neighborhood residents, including families of former employees of the plant say that all of the chemicals were removed when the plant closed in January 1970. If this is true, then the dioxin was brought to the site at a later time by someone else.

The longer that the chemical has been in the area, the higher the chance that diseases that residents suffer from have actually been caused by the dioxin. There is no safe level of exposure to dioxin. The chemical is measured in extremely small amounts.

Some homeowners in the area were initially suspicious that the incident was a hoax designed to remove them from their homes and allow industry to expand at their expense. The residents have fought the city government on two occasions to save their homes and are worried that the latest incident is just another attempt to get them out.

Other residents are concerned that the government is actually downplaying the extent of the problem. Dioxin is very dangerous and causes many health problems. The cost of health testing and treatment is very expensive because so many people are involved - at least 1500 residents and another 1500 workers in nearby plants.

Dioxin attaches itself to dirt and dust particles and moves around the same way that dust does. It can be blown by the wind , or spread by trucks moving onto the property, by dogs walking through the area, by children playing in the area, and through the sewer system. The fact that dioxin has been found in high concentrations along Joseph St. means that some of it has moved from the contaminated plant site.

The tests for dioxin which the state has done so far have been limited, and even these tests have not been done well. Out of 25 homes where tests were done, the laboratories doing the testing were unable (or unwilling) to report results for 14 of the homes. So only 11 homes were actually tested. No tests for dioxin were done at FDR Homes. Health tests of residents were not done initially. Instead, a questionaire was distributed to some people, again excluding the residents of FDR. Some people have refused to fill out the questionaire because some of the questions seem to be an unnecessary invasion of privacy. In addition, some people are afraid that the government will use the results of the questionaire to take away their homes. No one trusts the government officials involved in the situation.

Residents of FDR organized immediately to protest the fact that no tests were done and to demand health tests. Because of this the DEP has now set up a van to do some limited health tests. Doctors who are on the Ironbound Advisory Commission believe that blood tests should be done to test for damage to a person's genes and damage to the immune system (the body's ability to fight disease). Tests of fat samples from the body can show if there is dioxin present.

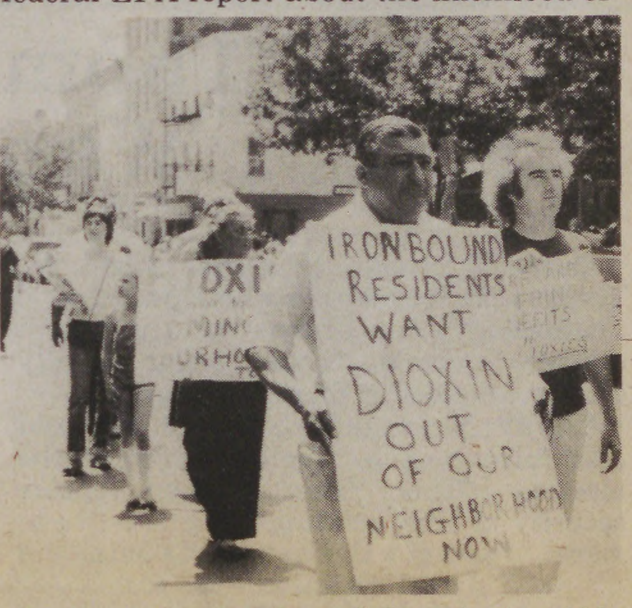
Residents say that the road leading to the dioxin site has been unguarded most of the time.

DEP officials have said that they have no intention of removing the dioxin. Instead they are using the word "containment", as if that were the solution. They say that they will put concrete over the dioxin site. This may cause dust problems during the construction, causing the dioxin to spread. The government claims there is no facility that is able to take the soil contaminated by the dioxin and destroy it. This is false. There are rotary kiln incinerators that can destroy the material, but it costs money. There are also some secure landfills wehre similar material has been taken. In addion, little has been said about the 500 drums that are in the warehouse on the site as reported in the Star Ledger June 3. Fire Chief Morgan had announced the discovery at a public meeting the previous night.

Years Of Doing Nothing

State and federal government officials have tried to downplay the severity of the dioxin contamination, the resulting human exposure and diseases, and the government's liability - which amounts to millions of dollars. State and federal officials acted the same way when the Love Canal contamination was first discovered. It took years for residents there to get a response and just compensation from the governments involved.

One major issue is the years of delay before the government took any action after they knew about the problem of dioxin at the site. The state claims that they found the dioxin during routine testing one month ago. Yet they waited a month before they did further testing or made any announcement. But there's more! When they were finally questioned, they admitted that they had received a federal EPA report about the likelihood of



dioxin contamination of that site in 1980. The noted environmental scientist Dr. Barry Commoner reported on T.V. that the first EPA report talking about dioxin contamination there was published in **1974.** 9 years before the government took any action! Governor Kean reported that the state would try to find people who had worked at the plant to see if they had any health complaints. Scientific research shows that the first study proving that the workers in the plant were being poisoned was done in **1962** and published in 1964. Another study was done in 1971. Both studies were public knowledge and yet nothing was done to see if the surrounding community was being effected

The Governor claims that they had to wait to do the tests because the necessary test procedures were not invented until a few months ago. In reality they had been invented **more than 10 years ago.** In 1973 results of even more sensitive testing procedures were published in scientific journals. Scientists were able to test for even much smaller quantities **more than 10 years before the time the governor was talking about.**

The first test results at the site showed dioxin levels of 500-1200 parts per billion (ppb). The government claimed that they expected that dioxin had not gone off the site. Five days later, the first results of tests in the neighborhood showed that there were levels of 1 to 5 ppbs. in other places in the neighborhood. The government said this proved that dioxin had not moved off the site. An independent investigator would expect that the levels of 1 to 5 ppbs. which were found **proved** that dioxin had actually moved off the site. In addition the dioxin was found almost 1/4 mile from the site, calling into question the lack of finding dioxin in areas closer to the site. This may be due to the fact that no results were reported for 14 out of the 25

Continued on page 3.

Students Involved In Community Issues



These students from Lafayette Street School took part in a poster contest about toxic wastes in our neighborhood sponsored by the Ironbound Ecumenical Association. The 3rd and 4th graders are shown with their teacher, Diana Silva. The winning students got framed copies of their posters and a certificate.



Students at St. Aloysius School who participated in the poster contest about the effects of toxic chemicals on our lives are shown here with the principal of St. Aloysius School, Sister Patricia McManus. Congratulations to all those who participated and to the contest winners!

Thomas St. Residents Still Want Action & Security

Over 60 people who live near the Thomas St. warehouse where over 10,000 drums and containers of toxic and dangerous chemicals were being illegally stored, attended a meeting June 2.

"We are here to talk about security," said Joe Carney, one of the organizers of the meeting. "There has not been regular security at this building since the fire in April. We've got thousands of containers of dangerous chemicals here. We're worried about the children who play there. We're worried about someone getting in. We're worried about another fire, or something worse."

Up until the meeting and the pressure from area residents, there was **no** regular security guard at the buidling, leaving the thousands of containers of dangerous chemicals unprotected.

Three representatives from the Newark Fire Department told residents that now there would be a watchman on duty every night and on weekends who could call the police if there was anything wrong. "Do you know how long it takes for the police to come?" asked one person.

On weekdays, the fire department officials said the DEP workers who are removing the chemicals would provide security.

"The Star Ledger had an article about chemicals that were stolen from the warehouse while the DEP men were at lunch," said one woman. "This is security?"

"The DEP told us that security was up to the City," another resident said. "You are telling us it's up to the DEP. So who's really responsible?"

Assemblyman Willie Brown, who attended the meeting, said he would work with the residents to try to find out who really is responsible for security at the building and to get the chemicals removed.

This was not the only question that the residents got contradictory answers to. After the fire last April, Judge Neagle issued a court order to clean up the chemicals. At the meeting, one resident asked **when** all the chemicals would be removed. Chief Morgan said the court ordered that 50% of the hazardous chemicals must be removed by July 15.

"That's different from what the DEP officials told us," said Mr. Carney. "They told us that the court ordered **all** the chemicals out by July 15. So we're hearing 1 thing from one official and something different from the others."

"What I want to know is is it dangerous to my health?" asked another resident.

"A good portion of the effects would be long term effects that you wouldn't be able to see until maybe 20 years from now," a fire department spokesman said.

The Fire Department greed to show residents the papers which tell which chemicals are being removed and where they are being sent. They also said that the people should call the Fire Department if they see anything suspicious at 733-7495.

"We're not going away. We live here and we'll keep on this until it's cleaned up," Mr. Carney said. The group will be holding regular meetings. Call 589-4668 for more information.

Keith Gets More Time To Pollute

A group of residents on Delancy St. have been fighting for the clean up of property owned by Keith Industries. Barrels of toxic waste are stacked on the property and leaking onto the ground.

The people who live nearby have had nosebleeds, headaches, respiratory problems and other health effects. Some people have moved because their health was suffering so much.

On May 4, the case went to Municipal Court but was postponed.

On June 5, more than 25 residents from the area took off from work to go to court against the company. In spite of the continuing health problems, Judge Frasca decided to postpone the case **again.**

Continually postponing the case makes it harder and harder for residents to be in court and make sure justice is done. The Judge and the company lawyers privately meet and then get the case put off for another day. Residents can't keep taking days off of work to come to court.

When people were leaving, one resident overheard the company's attorney saying, "The people won't be back a third time."

But the residents are determined not to give up. "We'll be back," they said.

Judge Lets Steelcraft Off Easy

How much is your health worth? $100,000? A million dollars? Impossible to put a dollar value on it?

Well Judge Guerino of the Municipal Court believes that the health of neighborhood residents is only worth **$100!**

That's the amount he fined Steelcraft when they were found guilty of violating air pollution laws June 1.

The case began last November when City code inspector Califri found odor violations at Steelcraft and took them to court.

For years residents of the area have had problems with headaches and other illnesses caused by the fumes from Steelcraft. "We've been trying to do something about this for a long time. we were in court for this case 7 times. The first time was February 9. It kept getting postponed. Each time, people had to take a day off of work," said one person. The residents could not believe the fine Steelcraft got was so low.

Bob McDonald, city attorney, said that the City would take Steelcraft back into court every time a new violation occurred.

Steelcraft has agreed with the DEP to use a new paint process to stop the odors by July 15 but in the meantime, the people on Astor St. can't enjoy the simple pleasures of sitting in their own backyards.

Job For Custodian

Custodian wanted for Ironbound Childrens' Center & Adult Education Program at 317 Elm St.

30 to 35 hours a week

Call Lorraine at 589-6873.

Revival For Survival Says No to At Sea

"We're out here because we're going to make sure the At Sea Incineration plant is never built! We are the people who will be most affected by bringing 7 and a half million gallons of deadly toxic waste into our neighborhood. We are the people who are going to stand up and say **NO** - **we will not be poisoned!**"

Over 300 people cheered when Bob Cartwright, from the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste**, spoke these words at the ***Revival For Survival*** rally on June 4. Before the rally, people from Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark and surrounding towns - young and old, Black, White and Hispanic - marched down the main street of Bayonne. All along the way, Bayonne residents cheered the group. Some even joined the march.

Speaking against the At Sea plans, Senator Edward O'Conner said, "I don't have to remind you what happened at Texaco. Nothing is failsafe. We have enough toxic wastes in our area already."

Assemblyman Willie Brown said, "They say it will create jobs but we can find a lot of other ways to create jobs. We have to first find a way to save lives."

Janet Korzun from **Bayonne Organization Against Toxic Sites (BOATS)** which cosponsored the rally along with the **Greater Newark Bay Coalition** said, "We're out here because we've got to be. No longer can we sit back and accept what is given to us."

An aide to Mayor Collins of Bayonne, Freeholder Parlevecchio, Hudson County Freeholder Sammy Kaye and other public officials voiced opposition to At Sea.

Madelyn Hoffman from **Grassroots Environmental Organization (GREO)** said, "We're part of a new environmental movement made up of people who are directly affected by toxic wastes in their communities, like the people of Love Canal. We didn't **choose** to be environmentalists. We **have to be** environmentalists because nobody else will protect us. They have no right to produce these chemicals if they can't get rid of it in a safe way."

Assemblyman Joseph Doria announced that there would be another public hearing on the criteria to decide where toxic waste facilities can be built on July 26 at Jersey City State College.

Over 50 Boats Sail Toxic Route

Peter Dykstra from **Greenpeace**, a national environmental action group, said, "We don't want to wait for Love Canal to happen here. We want to stop it **before** it happens."

The **Greenpeace**boat joined Pete Seeger's **Clearwater** and over 50 small boats from local yacht clubs sailed up along the route that the toxic waste ships would have to take. When the boats reached the rally site, members of the **Bayonne Yacht Club** fired a cannon salute. Sister



Jacinta Fernandez from **Coalition For United Elizabeth** blessed the boats saying, "We ask the God of Life to look down on us today and bless our efforts to preserve life on this earth." The boats wanted to show how dangerous it would be for toxic waste ships to come into this highly populated area.

During the rally, musicians Joel Horowitz, Jim Killian and the Clearwater Sloop Singers led the crowd in song. A Scottish Dance Group, calling themselves the "Anti-dioxin Dancers" for the day, came from New York City to entertain. Winners were also chosen for a poster contest conducted in elementary schools in the area.

"You've got a right to survive," Carrie Thomas from **Coalition For United Elizabeth** told the crowd. "You've got a right to breathe clean air. You've got a right to clean water. You've got a right to see your children grow up. These companies don't care how white you are or how black you are. We've got to stick together and fight them together."

Dioxin continued.

samples taken in homes. The state claims this was due to bad tests due to chemical interference. Some residents suspect that the actual cause is a cover up, that the results **did** show dioxin contamination but the state refused to make it public.

Dioxin and Health

Dioxin is considered dangerous to your health in levels over 1 part per billion (ppb). Exposure to dioxin can cause immediate symptoms or symptoms which do not appear until years later. The effects can last for many years after the exposure. **Chloracne** is a skin disorder caused by dioxin exposure. It can be accompanied by many other symptoms including fatigue, nervous disorders, weight loss, liver damage, insomnia. Dioxin exposure can also cause or contribute to cancer, heart and lung disease, birth defects, blurred vision, headaches, and many other symptoms.

Another major problem associated with exposure to dioxin is that it can hurt your "immune system". This is the part of your body that fights diseases. So you have more chance of getting sick with cancer, or bronchitis or other illnesses.

While consultants hired by the chemical companies have refused to acknowledge many of the above problems, the effects have been documented by many independent scientists. The United States government has a large vested interest in downplaying the dangers of dioxin. Tens of thousands of Viet Nam veterans were exposed to dioxin in Agent Orange. Now more than 16,000 have filed claims for compensation for the diseases they and their children have gotten becaue of the dioxin they were exposed to. It will cost the government millions if not billions of dollars in compensation claims if they ever admit that dioxin causes major health problems.

Drop Out Or Dig In!

by Joe Carney

It is becoming more evident with each passing day that the **NOW** generation is splitting, much as the atom was split.

The exact percentage of this split is still in the research lab and we won't know the outcome until some time in the future.

This is not a division, but a fracture. One segment is the dropout who quits school, smokes pot, hangs out doing nothing, or starts to steal hubcaps and then graduates to other forms of crime and/or hard drugs. They've thrown up their hands in complete surrender. They couldn't care less what happens to their lives and to the world.

Then we have those who finish high school, get the best job they can, and spend every cent on weekend fun and partying with no care for the future. They make no plans, never get involved seriously in anything, and love their life because they don't have to make any decisions about anything. They too have given up.

Another group goes through college with their sights set only on getting a diploma any way they can in order to insure a higher pay check with no thought of any future but the making of big bucks. Some of these get involved in life, some do not.

Others are involved in everything from Day One and give their time and energy to making this a better world to live in. These are the people who are open, caring, have love for other people and do everything in their power to help the poor, the oppressed, the illiterate, and they become involved in every issue that affects the environment of the world. These people ask for no thanks, for no glory. They are happy and content working for the causes of others and for the rights of their fellow humans.

These are people from every segment mentioned previously, but they did not **Drop Out.** They **Dug In** and tried to do their utmost to make things better for everyone.

We are very fortunate, here in the Ironbound, to have so many of these caring, loving and giving people. They all know who they are, and I'm sorry if you don't know them. The reason you don't know them is because you are not involved enough to want to know such people.

Find out what is going on in your neighborhood, the world, and join these beautiful people.

If you want to be involved, contact this paper. They will gladly tell you how you can open the doors to a new world called **Involvement!**

The Nuclear Threat To Humanity's Future

by Rev. David Burgess

My recent reading of Jonathon Schell's 1982 book **The Fate Of The Earth** shook me deeply and forced me to list some of the often neglected facts in the current debate about nuclear weapons and the seemingly endless arms race:

1) From the first use of gunpowder in Europe in the 14th Century and up through 1964, the total amount of explosives used in all wars up to that date amounted to **10 megatons** (or the equivalent of 100 million tons of dynamite). Currently the USA has **7000 megatons** of explosives including nuclear warheads for war. The USSR has a lesser amount. According to the U.S. Department of Defense we have the missile destructive power to kill each Soviet citizen "40 times over". The Soviet Union could kill each American with its nuclear weapons only about 30 times over.

2) To date neither the U.S. government nor any other government has devised a practiced method of safely storing waste uranium or plutonium used for civilian or military purposes. The radioactive half-life (the time it remains toxic) of spent uranium is over 25,000 years.

3) Today the USA, the USSR, Great Britan, France and China have launchable missiles and attached warheads. By 1990 about 20 other nations - including South Africa, Italy, Sweden, Pakistan, India, Egypt, and Israel - may have the capability of being members of the nuclear military fraternity.

4) In the event of a nuclear exchange between the USA and the USSR, according to the Committee of Concerned Scientists, military and civilian casualties in each country could be as high as **120 million to 180 million men, women and children.** According to the Catholic Bishops' recent declaration on the danger of nuclear war, for example, it was pointed out that the USA has already targetted 40 military targets within the city of Moscow and over 40,000 military targets in the USSR as a whole.

5) The USA has taken an initiating role in all major 9 nuclear weapon "advances": atom bomb development, hydrogen bomb development, nuclear missile submarines, inter-continental nuclear missiles, highly accurate MIRV missiles, short range attack missiles, underwater long range missiles and first strike nuclear war strategy.

6) Both the USA and the USSR have land-based missiles, air-launched missiles and submarine-launched missiles. Each U.S. Trident nuclear submarine carries 24 missiles and the power to destroy 160 Russian towns. Alledgedly the USSR is superior in its land-based missiles. We are far superior in the air-born and sea-born missile systems.

The time has come for serious strategic arms negotiations between the USA and the USSR and the other megaton nations. Possibly the words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King should be placed before all the rulers of this world:

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lies, nor establish the truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact violence merely increases hate...Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that."

Grandparents Day

Senior citizen Elizabeth Harris watches preschooler Toni Marques work a puzzle when she spent a day at the Ironbound Childrens' Center recently. The children and senior citizens plan to make the visits a regular activity.

Garden Corner

by Dirk Ten Wolde

With all the rain this spring, I had to re-seed a second time, since the roots of the plants began to rot and some seeds never germinated at all. This time I took a broom stick and when the soil was good and wet from a down pour, I made a deep hole and made it larger by turning the top of the stick in a large round circle. This made a cone-like hole and the water ran off into this hole whenever it rained. This little trick protected my plants and a second seeding became a success!

We can now start preparing for our late crops. Cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli can be planted in early June and transplanted in mid-July. In the middle of the month, plant corn, beans, beets, carrots, kohlrabi and turnips.

When growing climbing tomatoes, start **suckering** as soon as they bloom. This means cutting away all vines except the main one on the bottom. Tie the vines to stakes often as they continue to grow taller to protect the vines.

This year I see a lot more vegetable gardens as I walk in the neighborhood. To me this is a happy sight and I hope that I have helped people with these articles as well as those I speak to personally in my trips around the community. I try to answer their questions and help and show them what to do. I thank you for your trust in me.

Happy gardening to you all!

Salvadorean Refugees Protesting U.S. Aid

On July 5, more than 50 people will begin a walk from New York To Washington D.C. to protest the Reagan Administration's in Central America. The walk will be passing through Newark. They will spend the night at a local church and there will be a party that evening in support of the walkers.

The walkers, most of whom are refugees from El Salvador, are protesting U.S. aid to El Salvador. Every 6 months the Reagan Administration is required to prove to Congress that the government is making progress in human rights, before they can send more military aid. This is called "certification". Congress continues to approve giving the aid, in spite of much evidence that human rights violations are continuing from such groups as Amnesty International, America's Watch and the Catholic Church in El Salvador.

Sixty percent of all the land in El Salvador is owned by 2% of the people. One out of four children born in El Salvador dies before the age of five. These are among the reasons the people of El Salvador are fighting for a different way of life.

The Salvadorean refugees who will be on the walk believe that the military aid will be given to El Salvador again in July, in spite of their human rights violations. They are also protesting to demand that Salvadorean refugees, who fled from the government, be given status as refugees, so they will be able to stay in this country.

The walkers will be raising money through pledges to be sent to **SHARE (Salvadorean Humanitarian Aid, Research, and Education Foundation)** which provides food, clothing, and medical aid to Salvadorean refugees in Central America.

The Walk-a-thon will cover a total of 250 miles and will stop in over 15 cities and towns. It will be the first time that many North American people will have a chance to meet and hear first hand of the plight of people of Salvadorean citizens both in El Salvador and here in the United States. The group will leave from the United Nations Plaza in New York City. For more information call 212-473-4103.



Swim Team Starting

The Newark Swim Team will begin its summer swimming program at Hayes Pool on **Tuesday, July 5,** at 7:30 A.M. The program is for children ages 6 to 16. Head coach Pat Farley says that all interested people may register at Hayes Pool.

Congratulations!

All of us at St. Aloysius Elementary School are proud of the members of our 1979 class who received high school diplomas this June. We are especially proud of the fact that **three** were valedictorians of their class and one placed third:

Robert Danielak - Science High
Richard Danielak -3rd in class at Science High
Andrea Konkolowich - St. Cecelia High School, Kearny, valedictorian
Christopher Montferret - St. Peter's Prep, Jersey City, valedictorian

Congratulations from the Ironbound community!

Strong Support For Rent Control

On May 24, the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** held a very successful press conference to show the strong support it has gained for improvments in the rent control law. Members of over 30 organizations - including tenants associations, homeowner groups, churches, labor and community groups - spoke out in favor of the Coalition's proposals.

"We are making our Coalition for tenants rights a strong voice that nobody in this City can ignore," said Frank Hutchins from the Newark Tenants Organization.

Mr. Hutchins was speaking at a successful press conference held by the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** May 24. Members of over 30 organizations - including tenant associations, homeowner groups, churches, labor unions and community groups - spoke out in favor of the Coalition's proposals to improve the rent control law.

Mr. Hutchins pointed out that the Newark rent control law passed in 1973 because tenants organized and worked for it. "The bill has gotten weaker over the years because landlords have gotten the City Council on their side to get changes favorable to them. Now tenants are organizing for changes that will make the bill more fair."

Kathleen Blute, from the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, which represents 2200 workers in Newark shops, said, "If landlords were allowed to charge whatever rent they wanted, many of our members would be evicted...Rent Control is a **must** for our members. Any downgrading of this law is a dagger to the throat of working people. At a time when Newark wants business and working people to contribute to the economy to weaken or do away with rent control would be a major step backward. The ILGWU supports the resolution and joins the **Coalition To Save Rent Control** in Newark."

Bill Holland from the 80 Grafton Ave. Tenants Association said, "People on fixed incomes cannot afford rents rising sky high. Landlords are saying they are losing money but they can't prove it - or else why do less than 1% of the landlords apply for hardship increases?"

Maria Rojas from the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights announced the endorsement of their organization. Other groups who spoke out at the press conference or gave their support were 30 Walnut St. Tenant Association, Ironbound Community Corporation, Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry, Coalition Six, Newark Coalition For Neighborhoods, 72 Park Avenue Tenants Association, 555 Elizabeth Avenue Tenants Association, 455 Elizabeth Avenue Tenants Association, Aspen Riverpark Tenants Association, St. Columba's Neighborhood Club, Ironbound Ecumenical Association, 43 E. Kinney St. Tenants Association, Vailsburg Block Club, La Casa de Don Pedro, and 515 Mt. Prospect Tenants Association.

Some of the changes which the ***Coalition To Save Rent Control*** wants are:

1. To lower the automatic increase allowed each year to 3.5%.
2. To set a ceiling of 15% for hardship and capital improvement increases.
3. To eliminate the utility pass through since fuel costs are dropping now.
4. Put a rent freeze for 3 years on buildings where the landlord does not register with the Rent Control Board.

The Coalition has speakers who are willing to talk at any parent, tenant, Church, or school meeting. They also have regular meetings. Call 643-7711 for information.



30 Walnut St. Tenants Get $$ To Buy!

June 22 was a happy day for residents of 30 Walnut St. Since their landlord abandoned the building and refused to pay his taxes, the tenants have been running the building, and trying to get the money to buy their home. The Episcopal Diocese of Newark has given the tenants a $12,000 grant. Now if the City agrees, the tenants will be able to purchase the building they've been running and continue to live in their homes. Shown above (from left to right), tenants Briar Robinson, Edith Bryant, Lynette Thornton and Mary Laurence. Congratulations to the 30 Walnut St. residents for their hard and successful work!

Tenants In City Owned Buildings Want New Law

"We want to be able to stay in our homes. We want the City to stop the sale of our buildings until they pass a law that says we can buy or lease the buildings ourselves and fix them up."

Mary Lawrence is a tenant at 30 Walnut St. She (and others in her building) have joined forces with residents of other city owned buildings to try to save their homes by passing a new law. The new law would mean tenants associations in these buildings could buy their buildings at a low cost, or lease them, and use their rents to make repairs. The City would help with technical assistance and some money. There is a successful program like this in New York City.

The tenants have gained support for their proposal from community groups, church groups, and many individuals.

The City takes over buildings when the private landlords refuse to pay their taxes. In many cases, the City does not provide basic services like heat and hot water or do repairs, so tenants are often forced to leave - even though this situation is caused by their landlord, not by them.

"We presented our idea for a new law to City Council and they are setting up a Committee to study it," said Diane Sterner from *La Casa de Don Pedro. "In the meantime, no buildings where tenants are organized and want to save their homes should be sold."*

The demand to freeze the sale of buildings where tenant groups are organized and want to get control of their buildings is supported by many groups, including: Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministries, Coalition Six, Coalition To Save Rent Control, Newark Tenants Organization, St. Columba Neighborhood Club, La Casa de Don Pedro, the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, Unified Vailsburg Services Organization, Newark Latinos for Ecumenical Christian Unity, and the Hispanic Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Newark.

Tenants Win 2!

A group of residents from the Orchard St. area have won 2 victories over the last month.

Several years ago, these tenants were forced to move out of their homes because Essex Plaza Development Company was planning to fix the buildings up. The people were told that when the buildings were completed, they could move back in. But this didn't happen.

So last month the displaced tenants took Essex Plaza Development Company to court. The company then agreed to give all the remaining apartments to people who had been moved out.

This case was very similar to the Aspen-Riverpark (the old Pru) building in Ironbound. Tenants there were also forced to move and had to fight for their right to return to the building.

The group of tenants from Orchard St. also spoke at a Central Planning Board meeting to support more housing being built on Spruce St. The plans were approved.

"We want the opportunity to raise our children in a decent home, just like everyone else," said 1 member of the group. "We have lived in this area for many years. It's our home. We want to remain here and improve the area too."

Delia Feliciano, who is heading the group, said, "We are getting results because we are working together. We're going to continue to do this to get better housing for people."

Estudantes Envolvidos Nos Jornais da Comunidade



Os estudantes da Escola da Lafayette St. tomaram parte num concurso de cartazes sobre o lixo toxico na nossa vizinhança, financiado pela Ironbound Ecumenical Association. Os estudantes dos 3º e 4º grados apareceram apoiados pela professora Diana Silva. Os vencedores ganharam cópias dos seus proprios quadros encaixilhados e certificados.



Os estudantes da escola de St. Aloysius que participaram no concurso de quadros sobre lixos toxicos na nossa vizinhança apareceram apoiados pela Directora da escola Irmã Patricia McManus. Parabens a todos os que participaram, e aos vencedores do concurso.

Os Residentes da Thomas St. Querem Acção e Segurança

Mais do que 60 pessoas que vivem perto do armazém na Thomas St. onde estão armazenados mais do que 10,000 barrís de materiais tóxicos, estiveram presentes à reunião de 2 de Junho.

"Estamos preocupados com a segurança," disse -nos Joe Carney um dos organizadores deste encontro. "Não há guardas em serviço regular desde Abril quando do incêndio. Estamos preocupados com as crianças que brincam por lá. Estamos preocupados que alguém lá entre. Estamos preocupados que se dê outro incêndio ou coisa pior."

Até ao dia de reunião não havia guarda em horário regular o que significa que milhares de barrís com materiais tóxicos estavam sem protecção.

Três representantes do departamento dos bombeiros de Newark informaram que agora estará um guarda ao serviço todas as noites e fins de semana, e este poderá chamar a policia caso seja necessário. "Sabem quanto tempo leva a policia a chegar?" preguntou uma pessoa. Durante a semana, os trabalhadores da DEP que procedem à remoção destes materiais estarão encarregados da segurança. O jornal Star Ledger publicou a notícia de que material químico foi roubado enquanto os homens da DEP estavam a almoçar. "Isto é que é segurança?"

"A DEP disse-nos que a segurança era da responsabilidade da cidade," afirmou outro residente. "A cidade diz-nos que isto é da responsabilidade da DEP. Afinal quem é o responsável?" O representante na assembleia o Sr. Willie Brown, prometeu na reunião que nos ajudaria a determinar quem é o responsàvel pela segurança e remoção destes materiais quimicos.

Este não foi a única pergunta a que os residentes receberam respostas contraditórias. Depois do incêndio em Abril, o juiz Neagle deu ordens para que removessem as químicas. Na reunião um dos residentes perguntou quando è que seriam removidas todas as químicas. O chefe dos bombeiros o Sr. Morgan disse que a ordem dizia respeito a remoção de 50% destes materiais até ao dia 15 de Julho. "Isto contrário ao que nos disseram os da DEP," afirmou o Sr. Carney. "Este disseram-nos que o tribunal dera ordens para a remoção de todos estes materiais até 15 de Julho. Uns dizem uma coisa e outros dizem outra."

"O que eu quero saber é se estas químicas me são prejudiciais à saúde?" perguntou outro residente. "Na maioria dos casos de efeitos só se virão a saber daqui a talvez 20 anos," afirmou-nos um representante dos bombeiros. O departamento dos bombeiros concordou mostrar aos residentes documentos que indicam quais os materiais que estão a ser removidos e para onde estão a ser enviados. Também pediram que chamem o departamento dos bombeiros se virem algo suspeito, através do telefone 733-7495.

Keith Tem Mais Tempo Para Poluir

Um grupo de residentes da Delancy St. tem tentado combater para a limpeza da propriedade cuja são seus proprietarios Keith Industries. Tambores de desperdicios toxicos encontram-se aos montes na propriedade e a vazarem na terra.

As pessoas que vivem perto tem-se ensanguentado das narinas, dores de cabeça, problemas respiratorios e outras consequencias que afectam a saude. Pessoas tem-se mudado devido a sua saude estar em causa. No dia 4 de Maio o caso foi ao tribunal municipal, mas foi adiado.

No dia 5 de Junho, mais de 25 residentes da area deixaram os seus empregos para ir a Tribunal contra esta companhia. Apesar da continuidade dos problemas de saude o Juiz Frasca decidio adiar novamente o processo.

Adiamento continuo deste caso, dificulta cada vez mais as possibilidades dos residentes irem a tribunal e de se assegurarem que justica seja feita. O Juiz e advogados da companhia encontraram-se privadamente e adiaram o caso para outro dia. Os residentes não podem continuar a perder dias de trabalho para irem a tribunal.

Quando estavam a sair, uma pessoa ouvio o advogado da companhia dizendo, "As pessoas não viram a terceira vez."

Mas as pessoas estão determinadas a não desistir. "Nos voltaremos," disseram.

Juiz da Regalias a Steelcraft

Quanto vale a sua saude? $100,000? Um milhão de dollars? Impossivel valorizar?

O Juiz Guerino do tribunal municipal cre que a saude dos residentes desta vizinhança so valem $100. Essa e a quantia em que multou Steelcraft quando estes foram julgados culpados de terem violado as leis de poluição em 1 de Junho.

O processo começou em Novembro, quando o Inspector de codigos da Cidade, Sr. Califri, encontrou violação de cheiros na Steelcraft e os levou a tribunal.

Ha anos que os residentes da area tem tido problemas com dores de cabeça e outras doenças causadas pelos gases vindos da Steelcraft. "Temos tentado fazer algo sobre isto desde ha muito tempo. Fomos a tribunal com este caso 7 vezes. A primeira vez foi a 9 de Fevereiro. Todas as vezes que la nos deslocava-mos perdiamos um dia de trabalho," disse um pessoa. Os residentes acharam incrivel de Steelcraft ser tão baixamente multado.

Bob McDonald, advogado da cidade, disse que a cidade levaria Steelcraft novamente a tribunal sempre que tenham uma nova violação. Steelcraft fez um acordo com o DEP em utilizarem um novo processo de pintura que suprima o cheiro com prazo ate 15 de Julho. Não podem no entanto as pessoas do Astor St. desfrutar do simples prazer de se sentarem nos seus quintais?

Ironbound vs. Dioxina

A discoberta de dioxina no Ironbound significa que os residentes teem outra batalha para lutar contra os perigos dos quimicos tóxicos no bairro. Por experiência os residentes sabem que não podem deixar este assunto a cargo das entidades federais, estaduais ou da cidade para estas protejam a sua saúde ou mandem limpar os químicos tóxicos.

Por isso, nas ultimas semanas o povo tomou medidas imediatas fazendo o que tinha de ser feito. Uma **Comissão de Saude** foi organizada no Ironbound. Quinze cientistas e doutores peritos nos seus respectivos campos concordaram em fazer parte da Comissão e ofereceram os seus serviços aos residentes. Seis advogados experimentados em casos de poluição farão parte da Comissão. Cerca de 40 residentes da comunidade - pretos, brancos, hispanicos e portugueses - ofereceram-se para a Comissão.

Centenas de residentes da comunidade teem tomado parte nas reuniões feitas sobre o problema da dioxina nas últimas semanas. Exigiram que se tomassem medidas para se proteger a sua saude, analisar os productos tóxicos em toda a area, e que a comunidade pudesse envolver-se nas decisões que dizem respeito a esta situação. Outras medidas foram exigidas pelos residentes dos apartamentos da FDR as quais foram apoidadas por muita gente da comunidade. Com a Comissão de Saúde organizada os residentes não terão que depender sómente no estado e as entidades locais mas terão peritos independentes para enforçar as suas reivindicações e proteger a sua saúde e os seus direitos legais.

A Discoberta da Dioxina

Em 2 de Junho de 1983 o governo do estado anunciou que grades quantidades de dioxina foram encontradas no Ironbound na Lister Avenue. A propriedade pertencia à companhia Diamond Shamrock que ao fabricar o "Agente Orange", um herbicida usado no Vietnam produziu lateralmente um químico letal chamado **dioxina.** De 1966 a 1968 a Diamond Shamrock teve um contracto com o Departamento da Defesa para produzir o "Agente Orange". O governo do estado diz que essa foi a razão da contaminação de dioxina na área. Alguns dos residentes do bairro incluindo famílias de antigos empregados da quela fabrica dizem que todos os químicos foram removidos quando a instalação foi encerrada em



janeiro de 1970. Se isto é verdade então a dioxina foi trazida para o local mais tarde por outra gente.

Quanto mais tempo o químico esteve nesta area mais são as possibilidades do sofrimento dos residentes ter sido causado pela dioxina. Não há um nivel de exposição à dioxina que se possa chamar tolerável.

Alguns dos proprietarios da area suspeitaram inicialmente tratar-se duma jogada inventada para os forçar a abandonar a área para que a industria se pudesse expandir. Os residentes lutaran contra o governo da cidade duas vezes para salvar as suas casas e estão com receio que o ultimo incidente é outra tentativa para os evadir.

A dioxina liga-se ao lixo e às particulas de poeira movimentando-se da mesma forma que estas. Pode ser arrastada pelo vento ou espalhada pelas viaturas que se movem dentro da propriedade, pelos cães que caminham na area, pelas crianças abrincar e pelo sistema de esgotos. O facto de a dioxina ter sido encontrada em concentrações elevades na Joseph St. significa que alguma ultrapassou a área da fabrica é muito possivel que os esgotos estejam contaminados. Os canos de esgoto no Ironbound por vezes são inundados e transbordam para as ruas do bairro. Quando tal acontece, os químicos dentro dos canos espalham-se.

Os testes para a dioxina que o estado conduziu até agora teem sido limitados, e mesmo não teem sido feitos adequadamente. Onze casas sómente foram na verdade investigadas. Não investigaram os apartamentos da FDR Homes. Não fizeram exames médicos aos residentes inicialmente. Em vez disso distribuíram um questionário por algumas pessoas excluindo os residentes da FDR. Muitas pessoas recusaram responder por se tratar duma des necessária invasão da sua vida privada. Mais ainda, muita gente tem medo que o governo use o resultado dos questionários para lhes tirar as casas. Ninguem acredita nos funcionários do governo envolvidos neste caso.

Os residentes da FDR organizaram-se imediatamente para protestar o facto de não terrem sido feito testes e exigiram exames médicos. Em face disto a DEP montou uma carrinha para fazer algums testes limitados. Os doutores da Comissão de Saúde do Ironbound acreditam que se deviam fazer analises para ver se a função genética foi alterada, bem como o sistema imuno-supressor (a abilidade que o corpo tem de se defender contra as varias doenças). As análises de amostras de gordura do corpo podem mostrar a presença de dioxina.

Os funcionários da DEP disseram que não tinham intenção de remover a dioxina. Disseram que cobririam o local com cimento. Isso poderá causar problemas de poeira durante a construção permitindo que a dioxina se espalhe. O governo diz que não ha processo de eliminar o solo contaminado e destrui-lo. Isto é falso. Há fornalhas rotativas mas custam dinheiro.

Anos A Fazer Nada

Uma das maiores questões é que o governo passou anos sem tomar qualquer iniciatíva mesmo depois de saberem o que le passava no local. O estado diz que encontrou a dioxina à cerca de um mês num teste de rotina. Contudo esperaram um mês ate fazerem novos testes ou darem qualquer conhecimento ao público. Mas há mais! Quando finalmente se lhes pediu satisfações admitiram que tinham sido notificados pela EPA da possibilidade de contaminação do sitio em 1980. O notável cientista do ambiente, Dr. Barry Commoner disse na televisão que a primeira vez que a EPA soube da contaminação do local data de 1974, nove anos antes do governo tomar qualquer acção.

O governador diz que tiveram que esperar porque os processos de detecção de dioxinas não foram inventados até há poucos meses. Na realidade foram inventados há mais de **10 anos!**

Dioxin e Saúde

'Dioxin' é considerada perigosa à saúde quando ultrapassa a percentagem de 1 por milhão. Contacto pode causar sintomas imediatos ou sintomas que podem aparecer só anos mais tarde. Os efeitos podem durar muitos anos. 'Chloracne' é uma doença da pel causada pelo contacto com 'dioxin'. Pode ser acompanhada por muitos outros sintomas incluindo fatiga, nervosismo, perca de peso, doença do figado e coração, problemas con a vista, dôres de cabeça, e muitos outros sintomas. Outro problema que é associado com dioxin e o ataque ao sistema de imunização. Este é o sistema que impede doenças e deste modo uma pessoa tem maiores possiblidades de contrair cancro, bronquite ou outra doença.

Enquanto as companhias se recusam a admitir estes problemas, estes efeitos têm



sido documentados por cientistas trabalhando independemente. O governo dos Estados Unidos tambem têm interesse em abafar os problemas causados pela 'dioxin'. Milhares de soldados no Vietnam foram contaminados pela dioxin usada no 'Agent Orange'. Mais de 16,000 submeteram queixas e querem edminização pelas doenças que eles e seus filhos têm devido a esta contaminação. Custará ao governo milhões senão bilioes de dolas se admitirem que dioxin causa problemas à saúde. O povo Vietnamista foi exposto a niveis mais altos de dioxin que foi espalhado pelo exercito dos Estados Unidos. Os militares seriam severamente criticados por causarem as doenças que os Vietnamistas sofrem. Por ultimo o governo continua a permitir o uso de químicas contaminadas de dioxin nos campos de arroz e como preservativo de madeiras.

'Reviver Para Sobreviver' Diz Não Ao 'At Sea'

"Estamos aqui porque queremos ter a certeza de que a planta de incineração At Sea nunca vai ser construida! Nós somos o povo que mais vai ser afectado pelo transporte de 7 milhões e meio de galões de lixo toxico mortal para a nossa vizinhança. Nós somos o povo que se vai levantar e dizer **Não, nós não nos vamos envenenar!**"

Mais de 300 pessoas aplaudiram quando Bob Cartwright, do **Committee Contra Lixos Toxicos do Ironbound,** disse estas palavras no rally **"Reviver Para Sobreviver"** no dia 4 de Junho. Em face do rally, pessoas de Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark e areas vizinhas - novos e velhos, Pretos, Brancos e Hispanicos - desfilaram pela avenida principal de Bayonne. Ao longo do desfile os residentes de Bayonne aplaudiram o grupo. Alguns mesmo incorporaram-se na marcha.



Discursando contra os planos de At Sea o Senador Edward O'Conner disse, "Não tenho que vos fazer recordar o que aconteceu na Texaco. Não há recompensas. Já temos suficiente lixo toxico na nossa área."

O Assembleista Willie Brown disse, "Eles dizem que isto vai criar postos de trabalho, mas nós podemos encontrar muitas outras maneiras de criar trabalhos. Nós temos que descobrir primeiro a maneira de salvar vidas."

A Sra. Janet Korzun da **Organização Contra os Depositos de Lixo (BOATS)** quem custearam o rally de companhia com o **Greater Newark Bay Coalition,** disse "Nós estamos aqui porque temos que estar. Não nos podemos sentar e aceitar o que nos é dado. Eles não teem direito de produzir esses quimicos se não podem libertar-se deles com segurança."

O Assembleista Joseph Doria anunciou que irá haver outra sessão publica, para decidir aonde poderá ser construido o depósito para o lixo tóxico, no dia 26 de Julho no Jersey City State College.

50 Embarcações Navegaram

Mais de 50 embarcações do clube de navegação local navegaram ao longo da rota que os navios do lixo toxico deverão usar. Quando as embarcações alcançaram o sitio do rally, membros do **Bayonne Yacht Club** deram uma saudação de canhões. A Irmã Jacinta Fernandez da **Coalition For United Elizabeth** benzeu os barcos dizendo, "Pedimos ao Deus da Vida para que tenha compaixão de nós e abençoe os nossos esforços para preservar a vida nesta terra." Os barcos quizeram mostrar o perigo que poderá ser se os navios do lixo toxico entrarem nesta area altamente povoada.



Durante o rally, alguns musicos puseram a multidão em coro. Um grupo de Danças veio de Nova York para animar. Foram escolhidos os vencedores de um concurso de cartazes conduzido nas escolas elementares da area.

A Senhora Carrie Thomas da **Coalition For United Elizabeth** disse à multidão, "Vocês teem o direito de sobreviver. Vocês teem o direito de respirar ar puro. Vocês teem o direito de ter agua limpa. Vocês teem o direito de ver crescer os vossos filhos. Estas companhias não se importam se vocês são brancos ou pretos. Temos que nos unir e lutar contra eles juntos."



O Jardin Da Esquina

por Dirk Ten Wolde

Com toda a chuva da primavera, temos que voltar a plantar as plantas pela segund vez. Pois as raizes das flores não se chegaram a formar. Desta vez faço um buraco com um pau. E a volta da planta afasto a terra de maneira que ão chuver a água sai para os lados. E a plantação seija um sucesso por esta vez.

Podemos preparar a plantação do repolho, cove flor, brocolos, plantase no prencipio de Junho a meio do mêz, plante milho, feijão, cenduras.

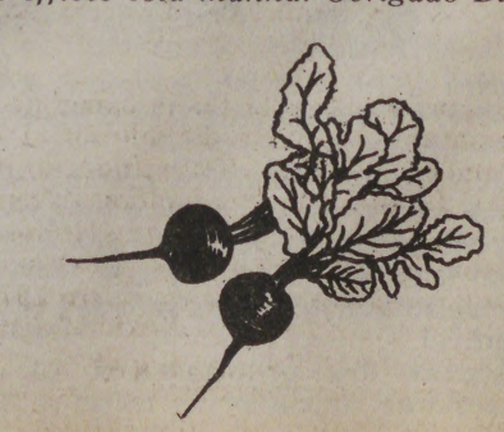
Quando os tomates começarem a florir corte algumas pernadas á volta.

Este ano veijo mais plantações de vejetais no nosso bairro esto nos faz ver que artigos como este ajuda e emcorage mais pessoas e as minhas provas quando falo com gente da comunidade. Faço por responder a todas as perguntas que me fasen.

Obrigado pela vossa ajuda e comfianca. Felizes plantações a todos vos.

Editor Nota:

Dirk's o jardin esta bem. E a prova esta nas flores cazeiras que trouxeram para as tuas offices esta manhã. Obrigado Dirk.



Ironbound Contra Dioxin

El descubrimiento de dióxido en Ironbound significa que los residentes tienen otra batalla para pelear contra el peligro de los productos químicos tóxicos en nuestro vecindario. Através de experiencia pasada en otras localidades en Ironbound, residentes han aprendido que ellos no pueden dejar en manos de oficiales estatales, federales o municipales para que protejan nuestra salud o para que limpien los productos tóxicos.

Porque por esto, en las pasadas semanas, gente de todas partes de Ironbound han tomado pasos inmediatos para hacer lo que debia estar terminado. Una **Comisión Consultiva de Salud en Ironbound** ha formado. 15 cientificos y doctores quienes son expertos en su campo han acordado ser parte de la Comisión y ofrecerse voluntariamente para ayudar a aconsejar los residentes. Seis abogados quienes han experimentado con casos envolviendo daños de contaminación tóxica van a estar en la Comisión. Alrededor de 40 residentes de la comunidad - Negro, Blanco, Hispano y Portugués - se han ofrecido voluntariamente para estar en la Comisión.

Cientos de residentes de la comunidad han atendido reuniones sobre los problemas del dióxido en las pasadas semanas. Demandas por exámenes de salud, mas exámenes para productos tóxicos en toda el área, el envolvimiento de la comunidad en las decisiones sobre ésta situación, y otras medidas fueron desarrolladas por los residentes de las casas FDR y apoyadas por muchas otras personas de la comunidad. Con la Comisión Consultiva de Salud, los residentes no tienen que depender de oficiales estatales y locales pero van a tener expertos independientes para ayudar a empujar nuestras demandas, y proteger nuestra salud y derechos legales.

Descubrimiento del Dióxido

En Junio 2, 1983, el gobierno del estado anunció que enorme cantidad de dióxido había sido encontrada en la Avenida Lister en Ironbound. La propiedad había sido adueñada por la compañía Diamond Shamrock, la cual había producido el mortal producto dióxido, como deribado de la fabricación de Agent Orange. (Agent Orange fué una herbicida usada en Viet Nam.

Desde 1966 hasta 1968, la compañía Diamond Shamrock tuvo un contrato con el Departamento de Defensa para producir Agent Orange. El gobierno del estado está



reclamando que ésta fué la causa de toda la contaminación de dióxido en el área. Algunos residentes del vecindario, incluyendo familias de trabajadores anteriores de ésta planta dicen que todos los productos químicos fueron removidos cuando la planta cerró en Enero 1970. Si esto es cierto, después el dioxido fué traido al paraje mas tarde por alguien.

El tiempo que el producto ha estado en el área, mas alta la oportunidad que residentes sufren de enfermedades actualmente causados por el dióxido.

Algunos dueños de casas en el area estuvieron inicialmente sospechosos de que el incidente fué una pajarota designada a removerlos a ellos de sus hogares y permitir que la industria se expanda. Los residentes han peleado endos ocaciones con el gobierno de la ciudad para salvar sus casas y estan preocupados que éste último incidente es solo otro intento de sacarlos afuera.

Dióxido depende propiamente de tierra y particulas de polvo y se mueve alrededor de la misma manera que el polvo. Eso puede estar flotando por el viento, o extendiéndose por camiones moviendose en la propiedad, por perros caminando através del área, por niños jugando en el área, y através del sistema de desague. El factor que el dióxido ha sido encontrado en grandes concentraciones a lo large de la calle Joseph significa que algo de eso ha sido movido desde el paraje de la planta contaminada. Es muy parecido que los desagues estan contaminados. Cañerias del desague en Ironbound muchas veces se inundan y se desvordan por las calles del vecindario. Cuando esto ocurre, ningún producto puede extenderse por las tuberías.

Los exámenes para dióxido los cuales el estado ha terminado han sido limitados, y estos exámenes no se han terminado bien. Solamente 11 casas fueron actualmente examinadas. Ningunos exámenes de dióxido fuéron hechos en las casas FDR. Inicialmente no fueron hechos exámenes de salud a los residentes. En cambio un cuestionario fué distribuido a algunas personas, una vez mas excluyendo los residentes de FDR. Algunas personas han rehusado completar el cuestionario porque algunas de las preguntas parecen ser innecesarias como invación de privacidad. En adición, algunas personas tienen miedo de que el gobierno use los resultados del cuestionario para sacarlos de sus hogares. Ninguno confía en los oficiales del gobierno envueltos en ésta situación.

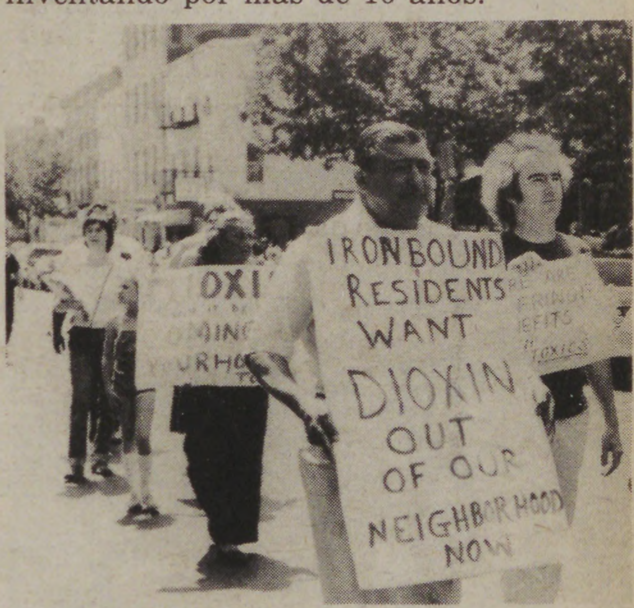
Residentes de FDR se organizaron inmediatamente para protestar el factor de que ningúnos exámenes fueron hechos y para demandar los exámenes de salud. Por esto el DEP ha montado un ómnibus para hacer exámenes de salud limitados. Doctores que estan en la Comisión Consultiva de Ironbound creen que los exámenes de sangre debían estar hechos para ver el daño en los genes de la persona y el daño en el sistema inmune (abilidad del cuerpo para pelear con las enfermedades). Exámenes de muestras de grasa del cuerpo pueden señalar si hay algo de dióxido presente.

Oficiales de DEP han dicho que ellos no tienen intención de remover el dióxido. Ellos dicen que van a poner cemento sobre el paraje. Esto puede causar problemas con el sucio durante la construcción, causando que el dióxido se extienda. El gobierno reclama que no hay manera de deshacer la tierra contaminada por el dióxido y destruirla. Esto es falso. Hay encineradores en rotación que pueden destruir el material, pero eso cuesta mucho.

Años Sin Hacer Nada

Un mayor resultado es los años de retraso antes que el gobierno tomara acción despues que supieron sobre el problema de dióxido en el paraje. El estado demanda que ellos encontraron el dióxido un mes atrás durante el exámen de rutina. Todavía esperaron un mes mas antes que hicieran una prueba adicional o hacer algún anuncio. Pero hay mas! En el 1980 cuando ellos finalmente fueron interrogados admitieron que ellos habian recibido un reporte federal de la EPA sobre la probabilidad de la contaminación de dióxido en aquel paraje. El Dr. Barry Commoner reportó en TV que el medio ambiente conocido es el primer reporte de la EPA, hablando sobre la contaminación de dióxido y fué publicado en **1974 - 9 años antes el gobierno no tomó acción!**

El gobernador reclama que ellos tuvieron que esperar para hacer examenes porque los procedimientos necesarios no fueron inventados hasta algunos meses atras. En realidad ellos han estado inventando por mas de 10 años.



Dioxin Y Salud

Dioxin es considerado peligroso a su salud en niveles sobre 1 parte por billon (ppb) exposición a dioxin puede causar sintomas imediato o sintomas que no aparecen hasta años despues. Los efectos pueden durar muchos años despues de la exposición. **Chloracne** es un desorden de la piel causado por exposición a dioxin. Puede estar acomopañado por muchos otros sintomas incluyendo fatiga, desordenes nerviosos, perdida de peso higado dañado, insomnia. Exposición de dioxin puede causar a contribuir a cancer, enfermedades del corazon o pulmones, defectos de nacimientos, vista empañada, dolores de cabeza y muchos otros sintomas.

Otro problema major associado con la exposición a dioxin es que puede lastima sus "sistema inmune". Esta es la parte de su cuerpo que pelea contra enfermedades. Asi usted tiene major probabilidad de enfermarse de cancer o bronchitis a otros enfermedades.

Aunque constultantes empleados por las compañias de quimicas han rehusado el saber de muchos de los problemos de arriba, los efectos han sido documentados por muchos cientificos independientes. El govierno de los Estados Unidos tienen un grand interes en inclinar los peligros de dioxin. Diez de miles de veteranos de Vietnam fueron expuestos a dioxin en Agent Orange. Ahora mas de 16,000 han registrado reclamaciones para compensación por las enfermedades que ellos y sus hijos han tenido por el dioxin al cual fueron expuestos. Le costara al govierno millones sino billones de dollares en reclamaciones de compensación se admitiesen que dioxin causa problemas majores de salud. En adición da gente Vietnamese fueron expuestos a niveles aun mas altos los cuales fueron echados en su paiz por la militar de E.U. La militar de los Estados Unidos serian severamente abochornados por cualquier admision de que ellos causaron los problemas de salud que los Vietnamese estan sufriendo. Ultimo, el govierno continua dejar que se usen chimicas contaminados con dioxin en los campos de arroz en America y como preservantes de madera como se usan comunmente.

Demostración Dice NO a At Sea!

"Estamos aqui porque vamos a segurarnos de que la planta de **At Sea Incineration** nunca sea construida! Nosotros somos los que vamos hacer más afectados al traerse aqui 7 1/2 millones de galones de desperdicios toxicos a nuestra vecindad. Somos nosotros los qué vamos a ponernos en pies y decir **NO**...Nosotros no seremos envenenados."

Sobre 300 personas aplaudieron cùando Bob Cartwright, de la **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste**, habló esas palabras en la protesta de "Revival For Survival" el 4 de Junio. Antes de la protesta la gente de Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark y los pueblos cercanos - jovenes, viejos, blancos, negros y hispanos marcharón en la calle principal en Bayonne. Por todo el trayecto, los residentes de Bayonne aplaudieron y vitorearon al grupo y algunos se unierón a la marcha.



Hablando a contra de los planes de At Sea, el Senador Edward O'Conner dijo, "No tengo qué recordarles lo que pasó a la Texaco. Nada es seguro. Tenemos bastantes desperdicios toxicos en nuestra area ya."

El Asambleista Willie Brown dijo, "Ellos dijeron que crearian muchos más trabajos, pero nosotros podemos encontrar muchas otras maneras para crear trabajos. Tenemos primero que encontrar las formas de salvar vidas."

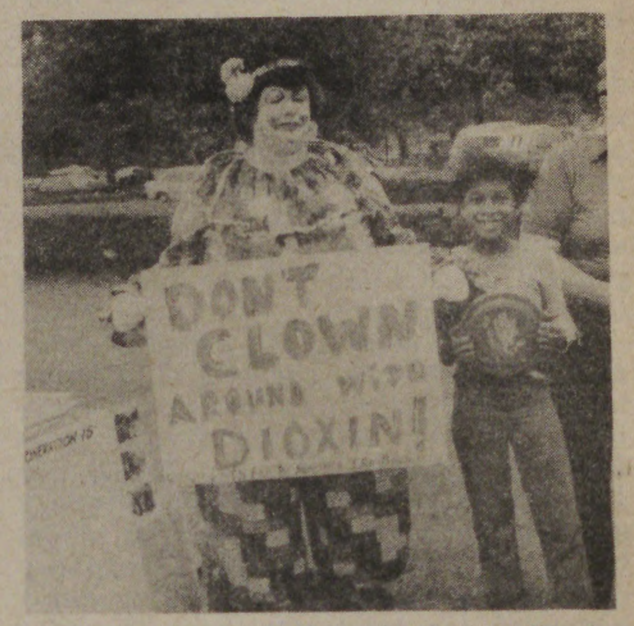
Janet Korzun, de **Bayonne Organization Against Toxic Sites (BOATS)**, quien co-auspicío la protesta junto con **Greater Newark Bay Coalition** dijo, "Estamos aquí porque tenemos que estar. No podemos quedarnos sentados y aseptar lo que nos es dado."

Madelyn Hoffman de **Grassroots Environmental Organization (GREO)** dijo, "Ellos no tienen derecho a producir esas quimicas si no pueden desacerse de ellas de una manera segura."

El Asambleista Joseph Doria anunció que habrá otra vista publica para decidir donde se construirán las facilidades para desperdicios toxicos el **26 de Julio** a Jersey City State College.

Sobre 50 Lanchas

Mas de 50 lanchas de los clubes locales viajaron a lo largo de la ruta por donde los barcos de quimicas toxicas tendran que pasar. Cuàndo las lanchas llegaron al lugar de la protesta, los miembros del **Bayonne Yacht Club** les dieron su saludo con disparos de cañones. La hermana Jacinta Fernandez de la **Coalition for United Elizabeth** bendijo las lanchas diciendo, "Pedimos al Dios de Vida mirar sobre nosotros hoy y bendiga nuestros esfuerzos por preservar la vida en esta tierra." La protesta en lancha quiso mostrar lo peligroso qué seria para los barcos con quimicos toxicos entrar a esta altamente poblada area.



Durante la protesta, musicos dirigieron al grupo a cantar. Grupos de baile vinieron des de New York City para entretenimiento. Ganadores fueron elegidos en la competición de carteles conducidos por escuelas elementales del area.

"Tienen derecho a vivir," Carrie Thomas de la **Coalición Para Elizabeth Unido** les dijo al grupo. "Tienen derecho a respirar un aire limpio, tienen derecho al agua limpia derecho de ver a sus hijos crecer. A estas compañias no les importa si eres blanco o negro. Tenemos qué mantenernos unidos y combatirlos todos juntos!"

Refugiados Salvadoreños En Contra La U.S. Ayuda Militar

El 5 de Julio más de 50 caminantes en su camino desde New York a Washington D.C. pasaran a través de Newark protestando ante la politica de la Administración de Reagan. Los caminantes pasaran la noche en una iglesia local y allí habra una fiesta esa noche en apoyo a ellos.

Los caminantes, la mayoria de ellos Salvadoreños, estan protestando ante la proxima "certificación" y el estatus de los refugiados Salvadoreños en este país. Cada 6 meses la administración de Reagan está obligada a certificar ante el congreso que el gobierno Salvadoreño esta haciendo progresos en el mejoramiento de los derechos humanos, para poder justificar así, la ayuda militar hacia ese país. A pesar de la evidencia demostrando lo contrario presentada por grupos como Amnistía Internacional y la iglesia Católica Salvadoreña, se espera que la Administración de Reagan hará lo mismo el próximo 22 de Julio que es el día de la certificación. Los refugiados Salvadoreños y otros grupos que se uniran estan tambien marchando para exigir se les garantice estatus de refugiados y que puedan permanecer en este país.

Los marchantes estaran colectando dinero a través de peticiones para enviarlo a organizaciones humanitarias Salvadoreñas y organizaciones educativas las cuales proveen alimentación, ropa y atención medica a los refugiados Salvadoreños en Centro America.

La caminata que cubre 250 millas y paradas en 15 ciudades distintas, es un evento único que será la primera vez en que muchos Norteamericanos participaran y estaran dando su apoyo a los Salvadoreños en su situación dificil que estan pasando aqui en los Estados Unidos y en su propio país.

Para mais información, llame a 212-473-4103.

Compañia Recibe Multa Pequeña

¿Cuanto vale su salud? ¿$100,000? ¿Un millon de dolares? ¿O es que sería imposible ponerle un valor?

Pues el Juez Guerino de la corte municipal cree que la salud de los residentes de este barrio vale solamente $100. Eso fue la multa que fue impuesta a Steelcraft por ser culpable de ignorar las leyes sobre la contaminación del aire.

Por años los residentes que viven cerco de Steelcraft han tenido enfermedades, dolores de cabeza y otros problemas a causa del humo y basura que Steelcraft hecha al aire. "Nosotros hemos tratado de hacer algo por mucho tiempo. Fuimos a la corte municipal **7 veces**. La primera vez fue el día 9 de febrero. Pero por una razon o otra fue aplazado. Y claro nosotros tuvimos que perder muchas horas de trabajo solo para poder ir a la corte - al final para nada," dijo una de lo residentes. Muchos que viven cerco de Steelcraft no podian cree que la multa era tan pequeña.

Dijo otra residenta, "Esto es una crimen encontra del publico y peor crimen es la falta de protección que la ciudad y el estado nos da."

Bob McDonald, un avogado de la ciudad, dijo que la Ciudad de Newark llevaria Steelcraft a la corte cada vez que una violación ocurre.

Steelcraft ha informado el "Department of Environmental Protection" que usaran un processo nuevo para parar el mal olor. Esto no va empezar hasta el fin de Julio. Hasta ese tiempo la gente que vive en Astor St. no podran ni siquiera sentarse afeura acausa de la peste.

Los Inquilinos Quieren Nueva Ley

"Nosotros queremos poder quedarnos en nuestros hogares. Queremos que la Ciudad deje de vender nuestros edificios hasta que pase la ley de vender y rentar los edificios nosotros y de arreglarlos."

Mary Laurence es una inquilina del 30 de Walnut St. se han unido con otros residentes de otros edificios en la Ciudad para tratar de salvar sus casas pasando la nueva ley. La nueva ley significara que las asociaciones de inquilinos en estos edificios pueden comprar sus edificios a bajo costo, o rentarlos y usar el dinero de el alquiler para arreglarlos. La Ciudad ayudara con asistencia tecnica y algun dinero. Hay un programa asi en la Ciudad de New York y es muy provechoso.

Los inquilinos se han ganado el soporte de grupo de la comunidad, grupos de iglesias y muchos individuos.

La Ciudad se queda con los edificios cuando los dueños de casa no quieren pagar impuestos. En la mayoria de los casos, la Ciudad no proviene los servicios basicos como calefacción, agua caliente o no arregla asi los inquilinos tienen que mudarse - a pesar que esta situación es causada por el dueño no por ellos.

"Nosotros presentamos nuestra idea para la nueva ley al Consegero (Council) de la Ciudad y ellos estan planeando un Comite para que lo estudian," dijo Diane Sterner de la Casa de Don Pedro. "Por ahora donde los inquilinos estan organizados y quieran salvar sus hogares deben de parar del vendido de sus edificios."

La demanda para parar la venta de los edificios donde los inquilinos estan organizados y quieren tener control de sus edificios esta soportada por varios grupos incluyendo: Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry (MEM), Coalition Six, Coalition To Save Rent Control, La Casa de Don Pedro, St. Columba Neighborhood Club, National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, Unified Vailsburg Services Organization, Newark Latinos for Ecumenical Christian Unity y Hispanic Mission Committee de Presbytery de Newark.

Residentes Ganan 2!

Un grupo de residentes en el área de la calle Orchard han ganado 2 victorias en los pasados meses.

Varios años atras, estos residentes fueron forzados a mudarse de sus apartamentos porque la Compañia de Desarrollo Essex Plaza estaba planeando arreglar los edificios. Ésta gente fué notificada que una vez se arreglaran los edificios, se mudarían a sus antiguos apartamentos. Pero ésto no sucedió.

Asi que el pasado mes estos residentes desplazados llevaron és a compañía a corte. La compañía acordó de devolverle los apartamentos a las personas que se mudaron de allí.

Este caso fué muy similar a los edificios Aspen Riverpark (antiguo Prudencial) en Ironbound. Residentes de allí fueron tambien forzados a mudarse y han tenido que pelear por sus derechos de regresar a los edificios.

El grupo de residentes de la calle Orchard tambien hablaron en la reunión de la Junta de Planificación Central para apoyar mas viviendas edificadas en la calle Spruce. Los planes fueron aprovados.

"Nosotros queremos la oportunidad de levantar nuestros hijos en una casa decente, igual como cualquier otro," dijo 1 miembro del grupo. "Nosotros hemos vivido en éste área por muchos años. Es nuestra casa. Nosotros queremos permanecer aqui y mejorar el área también."

Delia Feliciano, quien encabeza el grupo, dijo, "Nosotros estamos obteniendo resultados porque estamos trabajando juntos. Nosotros vamos a continuar haciendo ésto para obtener mejores viviendas para la gente."



Inquilinos del 30 Walnut St. Reciben $$ Para Comprar Su Edificio

El 22 de Junio fue un día alegre para los residentes de 30 Walnut St. Desde que el propietario abandonó el edificio y se negó a pagar los impuestos, los inquilinos han administrado el edificio, y están tratando de conseguir fondes para comprarlo. La iglesia Episcopal de Newark ha contribuido $12,000 a los inquilinos. Si la Ciudad está de acuerdo, los inquilinos podrían comprar el edificio y seguir viviendo en sus hogares. En el foto, de mano izquierda a mano derecha son: Brian Robinson, Edith Bryant, Lynette Thornton, y Mary Laurence. Felicitaciones a los residentes de 30 Walnut St. por su gran trabajo y éxito.

Propuesta Para Mejorar el Control de la Renta Gana Fuerte Apoyo

"Nosotros estamos haciendonos sentir con una voz fuerte y que nadie puede ignorarlo en la ciudad, con nuestra coalición para los derechos del inquilinos," dijo Frank Hutchins de la Organización de Inquilinos en Newark (NTO).

Mr. Hutchins estuvo hablando en la exitosa conferencia de prensa sostenida por la ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control de la Renta,*** el 24 de Mayo. Miembros de cerca de 30 organizaciones incluyendo asociaciones de inquilinos, grupos de dueños de casas, iglesia, sindicalistas y grupos comunitarios, habló en favor de las propuestas de la coalición para mejorar el control de la renta.

Mr. Hutchins señaló que la ley de control de la renta en Newark fué pasada en 1973 porque los inquilinos se organizaron y trabajaron para eso. "La ley se ha debilitado con los años porque los propietarios de casas han logrado poner de su lado al consejo de la ciudad para lograr cambios que los favorezcan a ellos. Ahora los inquilnos se estan organizando por cambios que haran la ley más justa."

Kathleen Blute, de International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), la cual representa 2200 trabajadores de los talleres de Newark dijo, "Si los propietarios fueran permitidos de cargar cualquier renta que ellos quisieran, muchos de nuestros miembros serian expulsados...el control de la renta es un deber para nuestros miembros. Cualquier rebaja de grado en esta ley es una puñalada en la garganta del pueblo trabajador. Al mismo tiempo cuando Newark desea negocios y gente trabajadora para contribuir a la economía, el debilitar este lay o anularla sería un paso atrás. ILGWU apoya la resolución y se une a la ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control de la Renta*** en Newark."

Bill Holland de la Asociación de Inquilinos de Grafton Ave. dijo, "La gente con salarios fijos no pueden pagar el incremento elevado en la renta. Propietarios estan diciendo que ellos estan perdiendo dinero pero ellos no pueden probarlo, aún más si ellos están perdiendo dinero es menos del 1% porqué ellos están solicitando un nuevo incremento?"

Maria Rojas, del Congreso Nacional de los Derechos Puertorriqueños, anunció su adherencia a la organización. Otros grupos que hablaron en la conferencia de prensa o dieron su apoyo fueron los de la Asociación de Inquilinos del 30 Walnut St., Ironbound Community Corporation, Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry, Coalition Six, Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods, Asociación de Inquilnos de 72 Park Ave., 555 Elizabeth Ave., 455 Elizabeth Ave., 515 Mt. Propsect Ave., Aspen Riverpark, St. Columba's Neighborhood Club, Ironbound Ecumenical Association, Asociación de Inquilnos de 43 E. Kinney St., La Casa de Don Pedro, Vailsburg Blcok Club.

Algunos de los cambios los cuales de ***Coalición Para Salvar el Control sobre la Renta*** quiere son:

1. Bajar el automático incremento permitido cada año y que es 3.5%.
2. Establecer un tope del 15% para privaciones y mejoramientos del incremento de capital.
3. Eliminar los costos en utilidades porque el precio del combustible ha bajado.
4. Congelar la renta por 3 años en edificios donde el propietario no esté registrado con la Junta del control de la renta.

La ***Coalición*** tiene oradores quienes desean hablar con cualquier inquilino, iglesia, o escuela. Ellos tambien tienen reuniones regulares. Llame al 643-7711 para más información.

Ironbound Voices is a project of the Ironbound Information Center. We believe that all people are entitled to income, food, clothing, housing, education, and health care. We will print articles about groups taking steps to make this belief a reality. We will also publish information about your legal and social service rights. This issue was published with the help of:

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Important Meeting

Toxic Waste Siting Commission

July 26 7:30 P.M.

Jersey City State College
Student Union Building
2039 Kennedy Boulevard

This is another public hearing to decide **where** toxic waste facilities can be built. It is important that many Ironbound residents attend and tell them, "Enough is enough!"
Call 589-4668 for rides.

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